

Minutes

Leesburg Executive Airport

March 13, 2003

Discussion Notes: The March meeting of the Leesburg Executive Airport Commission was held in the terminal building of the airport, 1001 Sycolin Road SE, Leesburg, Virginia

Commissioners Present: Mr. Steve Axeman, Chairman, Mr. Sidney Lissner, Vice-Chairman, Mr. David Burton, Mr. Bill Whyte and Mr. Stanley Caulkins

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Robert Zoldos, Councilmember and Mr. Bob Jones

Staff Present: Ms. Jackie Seipel, Administrative Associate and Mr. Terry Brant, Sr. Airport Maintenance Technician

Staff Absent: Mr. Doug McNeeley, Airport Director

Guest Speakers: Mr. Pat Cain, Roadstar Internet, Mr. Larry Rosentrauch, Director of Economic Development, Loudoun County, Ms. Cheryl Kilday, Loudoun County, Ms. Betsy Fields, Director of Economic Development, TOL and Ms. Marantha Edwards, Tourism Coordinator, TOL

Call to Order:

The March 13, 2003 Airport Commission meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Stanley Caulkins moved to approve the minutes for the February 13, 2003 commission meeting. Mr. David Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried.

Chairman Opening Remarks:

- The Chairman announced that the Director is not with us this evening, he was taken ill and is home resting after a morning trip to the hospital. We all wish him well.

- The Chairman led the meeting in a moment of silence for the fallen aviators from N700P aircraft crash of March 1, 2003. The Chairman said the Commission will continue to look at enhancing safety at Leesburg Airport.
- The Chairman gave general comments on flying in the (ADIZ) Air Defense Identification Zone. He advised all pilots to proceed with caution talk with Flight Services Specialist to ensure the correct codes as information changes daily.

Petitioners:

- Ms. JoAn Keefe, President, Pro Pilots, requested of the Commission to allow her to place a trailer on the Airport property to continue and operate her business.
- Mr. Mel Price, Sterling, Virginia, asked the Commission to advise him of the engineers findings for the south hangar collapse. The Chairman responded that he had no information and requested staff to provide him with copies of the engineering findings.
- Mr. Drew Stekeete stated that the Tavostock welcome center should be moved across the street and used as an airport welcome center.

Guest Speakers:

Mr. Pat Cain, Roadstar Internet Broadband Wireless

- Mr. Cain gave a presentation and overview of his company services. Mr. Cain has offered to install his antennas to provide wireless to the pilots visiting Leesburg Airport. Cards would have to be provided to gain access to the internet services. Antennas will not interfere with antennas or equipment at the AFSS.

Mr. Larry Rosenstrauch, Loudoun County Director of Economic Development

- Mr. Rosenstauch stated that the staff recommended the Finance/Government Services Committee forward a favorable recommendation to the Board of Supervisors approving Loudoun County's participation in the Tourism Industries Economic Recovery Program, following the terrorist act of September 2001, by designating 80 percent of Loudoun County funds (\$280,000) for participation in a regional tourism recovery plan to be administered by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The remaining 20 percent (\$70,000) would be used to develop tourism/aviation industry marketing project at Leesburg Executive Airport with administration of funds to be determined by the County Administrator.
- Ms. Cheryl Kiday recommended that the "Gateway Grant" be in the form of a legacy that will continue on for years to come.

- Mr. Stanley Caulkins moved to adopt a resolution that the Airport Commission approve the County of Loudouns recommendation. Mr. Steve Axeman seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Operations/ Mr. Roy Steinfort

- Mr. Steinfort stated that he was unaware of the \$4.5 million in Federal funding that was lost by not purchasing that land on the west side of the runway. He has asked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to look into the reason why this has happened.
- Mr. Stanley Caulkins reminded the Commission that the Federal funding was not “lost” but reprogrammed for future purchase of the land. Mr. Caulkins and Mr. Lissner had a conversation with Joe Delia of the FAA to that effect.
- Mr. Steinfort stated that he didn’t feel the snow removal was a fair plan.
- Terry Brant was asked to explained the snow removal process.
- Mr. Whyte recommended that the Director be involved to discuss the Snow Removal Plan.

Finance/ Mr. Sidney Lissner, Mr. Bob Jones, Mr. Dave Burton / No Report

Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards/ Mr. Bill Whyte

- Mr. Whyte will be meeting with the Chairman on Saturday to discuss the Airport Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards.

Economic Development/ Mr. Stanley Caulkins/ No report

Old Business:

A corrected copy of the draft Corporate Franchise Agreement has not been received to date by the Commission. As requested, staff will send the corrected copy to the Commission for their review.

Mr. Steinfort thanked the Chairman for helping to remove the damaged aircraft from the collapsed hangar.

The Chairman handed out the Self Service Fuel Survey to Commissioner’s and staff, Mr. Lissner also requested asking tenants for email addresses and fax numbers to have on file.

New Business:

South Hangar Collapse

As a result of the hangar collapse there is the commercial business, Pro Pilots Inc. that does not have an office to operate out of. The Chairman stated that the Commission should commit itself to seeing Pro Pilots Inc. become a functioning business again.

Mr. Steve Axeman moved to have the Town of Leesburg consider assisting Ms. Keefe with relocation of her business into a trailer. Mr. Bill Whyte seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Aircraft Accident N700P

The Chairman discussed the accident of March 1, 2003, in his opinion, they have no way of knowing what caused the accident and a glideslope could or could not have prevented it. We can continue to make improvements like land acquisition and stronger lighting systems.

Mr. Lissner reminded the aviation community that residents are very concerned with the safety of flying in the Leesburg and vicinity, we need to minimize the risk anyway we can.

Snow Removal

The Commission has requested that the Director report back at the next meeting and explain the snow plan. The Chairman sees a need for more balance in the snow removal plan.

Mr. Dean Smith, Airport staff, explained the snow plan and how it can differ with varying amounts of snow. The last storm was unusual for this area and removing it was a very involved process. Mr. Smith stated his disappointment for being criticized after 20 continuous days of snow removal.

Comments

- Roger Greathouse with Piedmont Hawthorne has offered Pro Pilots office space and suggested they come down to see him and work out an agreement.
- Mr. Drew Steketee, stated that in Commission and staff should not dismiss to glidescope. The residents of Leesburg need to know we are attempting to make improvement for safety. He also stated that the Commission should look more closely at land use issues.

- Mr. Tom Toth, stated that he was in full agreement with what Mr. Steketee had to say.
- Mr. Jim Odenwalt, in his opinion feels that the issue is not minimums but it is workload and a Precision Approach is what is needed.
- Mr. Ken Trafford asked that pilots and public bodies be sensitive in their comments to the media and to consider the grieving families when stating their opinions.
- Airport staff publicly thanked Mr. Robert Daniels; Hensel Phelps Construction for a delivery of 300 gallon of diesel fuel that enabled staff to continue plowing out the airport.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bill Whyte moved to adjourn. Mr. Roy Steinfort seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried.